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Walter Kappe, formerly reporter for the "Abendpost", a German daily newspaper in Chicago, and later cable-editor of the "Cincinnati Freie Presse", a German daily newspaper in Cincinnati, was in charge of publicity for the "Friends" and later for the Bund. (The publisher of the "Cincinnati Freie Presse" recently received a decoration from the German Government.) After things became too hot in this country, Kappe left for Germany where he now holds an official position.

In the Minutes of the "Teutonia" for 1924/25, its first year of existence, appears the following paragraph:

"The Membership Committee expresses its special thanks to Comrade Walter Kappe for his favorable reports in the 'Abendpost'. May the young members of our organization see the fulfillment of his hopes and may he always be a loyal Teuton. We make special mention of Comrade Kappe as his activities in behalf of the Bund jeopardize his position at the 'Abendpost'."

The Minutes are signed by Fritz Gissibl and counter-signed by Wilhelm Mahrenholz.

Spanknoebel went to Germany in May, 1933. He returned in July of the same year. While abroad he conferred with Nazi Party and German Government officials and was authorized to act in this country as representative of the German Government (Reichs-Leitung) and the Ministry of Propaganda.

Shortly after his return from Germany, Spanknoebel wrote a German letter to Walter Kappe of which the following is a translation:

From Heinz Spanknoebel  
New York City  
General Delivery

July 6, 1933

"Dear Party-Comrade Kappe:

"I wish to inform you that I have returned from Germany. Party-Comrade W. Hentschel will return to the United States in about fourteen days. While abroad, we succeeded in finding a solution for the problem of organization and propaganda.

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"For the time being and for technical reasons, my official appointment as director of counter propaganda in the United States must remain secret. The necessary financial means have been granted."

"Of course, the Bund is to act as the organ through which many matters of propaganda are to be handled. Among others, two publicity offices are to be established and of course you must help in this through your ability. I have written to Chicago that I would like to have all officers, leaders of the various branches of the Bund and treasurers of all groups, come to Chicago on July 28 to July 30, but I would prefer to see you before then, maybe on my trip to Chicago, either in Detroit or Cincinnati. I will give you more detailed information about this later."

"My official position is in direct connection with the Consulate General and at the moment I am busy with negotiations and the installation of an office."

"Now I have heard that all kinds of negotiations have been carried on with Wiedemann on matters which do not concern Wiedemann at all. (Until his appointment as German Consul General in San Francisco, Wiedemann was the personal adjutant of Chancellor Hitler. He visited the United States in the summer of 1933, and in the early months of 1938. For further information about Wiedemann, see Appendix, Part I, Chapter 3.). I only regret that the German Government receives such an inconclusive picture through the numerous steps which have been undertaken independently by several people. I do not understand Party-Comrade Gissibl. While a short time ago he expressed his complete confidence in me and has written me a letter before my departure, it is impossible to understand his attitude and his double crossing at the moment when I had my hands full to stop our most important enemy, Luedcke, and to prepare the field for orderly work."

"I do not stand in the way of anybody; I intend to work in comradeship with everyone, and to rely upon our old fighting companions. It is even questionable whether I will be in a position to undertake the practical guidance of the Bund, inasmuch as the responsibility bestowed upon me through my official office is a tremendous one. At any rate, I am willing to discuss all plans designed to help our cause. Never was the time so ripe and the fields so clear as now. I urge you dear Kappe to inform Gissibl at once of this situation in order to have

"Heil Hitler",

"Heinz Spankmoebel."

"P.S. I have power of attorney from the Reich-Government as well as from the Ministry for Propaganda. If it is necessary in order to have clarity, I ask you to cable Wiedemann that we are united."

[illegible]